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2001

Date: May 2, 2001 Label No. EL8566591891US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Sandra Stocklinski

Name (Print)

Sandra Stocklinski

Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Lotfi HEDHLI et al.)

Application Number: 09/774,266)

Group Art Unit: 1745

Filed: January 30, 2001)

Examiner: Not Assigned

For: FLUOROPOLYMER RESINS CONTAINING IONIC OR IONIZABLE GROUPS AND PRODUCTS
CONTAINING THE SAME

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 3, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following amended parts of the specification as indicated in the above-identified application. (A version of the amended specification with markings to show the changes made is also attached.)

On page 3, paragraph beginning on line 22 and ending on line 25.

--WO 98/22989 describes a polymeric membrane containing polystyrene sulfonic acid and poly(vinylidene fluoride), which provides reduced methanol crossover in direct methanol fuel cell (DMFC) use. However, the polymer blending process described does not provide an acceptable blend and the sulfonation steps are complicated.--

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B1